(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps Government proposes to take to streamline the process of allotment of spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

BWA Spectrum

3512. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :
SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to auction Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum also alongwith 3G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much more spectrum in each of the BWA bands is going to be made available in subsequent years;

(c) whether the base price of BWA spectrum is 50 per cent of the base price of 3G spectrum;

(d) whether DOT carried out any study to ensure that the BWA services will be viable in the rural and far flung areas at this price; and

(e) if not, how does DOT propose to make these services affordable in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guidelines were issued for auction of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum. 2 blocks each of 20MHz are available in 2.3 GHz and 2.5 GHz bands. Out of this one block of 20MHz has been allocated to MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai/Metro Service Areas and BSNL in other Service Areas at a price equal to the highest bid in the respective areas.

(c) Guidelines were issued for auction of BWA spectrum on 1.8.2008 with some amendments on 11.9.2008. As per the guidelines, the reserve price for 20MHz in Time Division Duplex (TDD) mode spectrum was fixed at the rate of Rs. 80 Crore for Metro & Category 'A' Circles, Rs. 40 Crores for Category 'B' Circles and Rs. 15 Crores for Category 'C' Circles.

However, an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted on issues relating to auction of 3G Spectrum. As per terms & reference, the EGoM will also examine the reserve price for BWA spectrum in the relevant bands.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) A scheme to provide broadband connectivity to approximately 2 Lakh villages is under consideration. The rest of the villages will be convered in a phased manner. In this scheme financial

assistance by way of subsidy will be given to Telecom Service Providers for the wireless infrastructure in rural and remote areas. The scheme is envisaged to be rolled out across India in phased manner during the current Five Year Plan.

Spectrum Committee's recommendations

3513. SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Spectrum Committee's recommendations of charging a flat rate of 3 per cent spectrum charge irrespective of the 2G spectrum held by the operators a contravention to the stand taken by the DOT, MoF and TRAI; and

(b) if so, the amount of losses incurred by Government in accepting the recommendation of the Spectrum Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) The Committee for "Allocation of Access [Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM)/Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) spectrum and pricing" recommended prescribing uniform rate of 3% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) per annum for spectrum usage charges irrespective of the quantity of spectrum held & the technology. The issue on which the Committee has given its recommendations were already deliberated in detail by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) also while giving its recommendations on "Reviews on license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers" on 28th August, 2007. Various recommendations are inter-linked or inter-dependend. Therefore, on 7th July, 2009, the Government has sought recommendations of TRAI on the recommendations/comments on the Report of the Committee.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation of Additional Spectrum

3514. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV :
SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no one-time entry fee was charged from the GSM operators for allocation of additional spectrum beyond the license mandated 6.2 MHz;

(b) if so, by when and how much spectrum has been allotted to each of the GSM operator beyond the 6.2 MHz;

(c) whether Government proposes to charge one-time fee for such allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.